IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A developer, comprising:

a base toner containing at least a binding resin and a coloring agent; and

inorganic fine particles;

wherein the base toner satisfies $105 \leqq$ SF-1 $\leqq 130$ and $120 \leqq$ SF-2 $\leqq 180$,

wherein SF-1 = ((absolute maximum length of a particle of the base toner)^2/area of the particle of the base toner)$\times(\pi/4)\times 100$,

wherein SF-2 = (peripheral length of the particle of the base toner)^2/(area of the base toner)$\times(1/4\pi)\times 100$,

wherein the inorganic fine particles have an average particle diameter that ranges between 30 nm to 160 nm and an average degree of roundness greater than or equal to 0.98 and less than or equal to 0.996.

Claim 2 (Original): The developer as claim in claim 1, wherein the inorganic fine particles are formed as silica.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The developer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inorganic fine particles are ~~applied with a sol-gel technique and are thereby~~ formed as spherical shaped hydrophobic silica fine particles using a sol-gel technique.

Claim 4 (Original): The developer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the developer contains further inorganic fine particles having an average particle diameter which is smaller than the inorganic fine particles.

Claim 5 (Original): The developer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the developer is combined with a magnetic particle to function as a carrier.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a developer for developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an electrostatic latent image carrier body to form a toner image;

a transfer unit for transferring the toner image to a transfer medium;

wherein the developer includes a ~~further developer~~ combination and a carrier,

wherein the ~~further developer has~~ combination includes a base toner containing at least a binding resin and a coloring agent, and inorganic fine particles,

wherein the carrier has a magnetic particle,

wherein the base toner satisfies $105 \leqq$ SF-1 $\leqq 130$ and $120 \leqq$ SF-2 $\leqq 180$,

wherein SF-1 = ((absolute maximum length of a particle of the base toner)^2/area of the particle of the base toner)$\times(\pi/4)\times 100$,

wherein SF-2 = (peripheral length of the particle of the base toner)^2/(area of the base toner)$\times(1/4\pi)\times 100$,

wherein the inorganic fine particles have an average particle diameter that ranges between 30 nm to 160 nm and a spherical degree of roundness greater than or equal to 0.98 and less than or equal to 0.996.

Claim 7 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the inorganic fine particles are formed as silica.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the inorganic fine particles are ~~applied with a sol-gel technique and are thereby~~ formed as spherical shaped hydrophobic silica fine particles using a sol-gel technique.

Claim 9 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the developer contains further inorganic fine particles having an average particle diameter which is smaller than the inorganic fine particles.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ~~developer~~ coloring agent includes a plurality of colors.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A process cartridge, comprising:

a charge unit charging a photoconductor;

an exposure unit exposing light to the photoconductor to form an image on the photoconductor;

a developer;

a development unit developing the image formed on the photoconductor with ~~a~~ the developer;

a transfer unit transferring the image formed on the photoconductor to a transfer medium;

a cleaning unit cleaning the transfer unit;

wherein the developer includes a ~~further developer~~ combination and a carrier,

wherein the ~~further developer has~~ combination includes a base toner containing at least a binding resin and a coloring agent, and inorganic fine particles,

wherein the carrier has a magnetic particle,

wherein the base toner satisfies of $105 \leqq$ SF-1 $\leqq 130$ and $120 \leqq$ SF-2 $\leqq 180$,

wherein SF-1 = ((absolute maximum length of a particle of the base toner)^2/area of the particle of the base toner)$\times(\pi/4)\times 100$,

wherein SF-2 = (peripheral length of the particle of the base toner)^2/(area of the base toner)$\times(1/4\pi)\times 100$,

wherein the inorganic fine ~~particle has~~ particles have an average particle diameter that ranges between 30 nm to 160 nm and a spherical degree of roundness greater than or equal to 0.98 and less than or equal to 0.996.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The process cartridge as claimed in claim 12, wherein the inorganic fine particles ~~are formed as~~ include a silica.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The process cartridge as claimed in claim 12, wherein the inorganic fine particles are ~~applied with a sol-gel technique and are thereby~~ formed as spherical shaped hydrophobic silica fine particles using a sol-gel technique

Claim 15 (Original): The process cartridge as claimed in claim 12, wherein the developer contains further inorganic fine particles having an average particle diameter which is smaller than the inorganic fine particles.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A image forming method, comprising the steps of:

charging a photoconductor;

exposing light to the photoconductor to form an image on the photoconductor;

developing the image formed on the photoconductor with a developer;

transferring the image formed on the photoconductor to a transfer medium;

wherein the developer includes a ~~further developer~~ combination and a carrier,

wherein the ~~further developer has~~ combination includes a base toner containing at least a binding resin and a coloring agent, and inorganic fine particles,

wherein the carrier has a magnetic particle,

wherein the base toner satisfies $105 \leqq$ SF-1 $\leqq 130$ and $120 \leqq$ SF-2 $\leqq 180$,

wherein SF-1 = ~~((absolute maximum length of a particle of the base toner)^2/area of the particle of the base toner)^2×(π/4)×100)~~ ((absolute maximum length of a particle of the base toner)^2/area of the particle of the base toner) ×(π/4)×100),

wherein SF-2 = ~~(peripheral length of the particle of the base toner/area of the base toner)×(1/4π)×100~~ (peripheral length of the particle of the base toner)^2/(area of the base toner)×(1/4π)×100,

wherein the inorganic fine particles have an average particle diameter that ranges between 30 nm to 160 nm and a spherical degree of roundness greater than or equal to 0.98 and less than or equal to 0.996.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The image forming method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the inorganic fine particles ~~are formed as~~ include a silica.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The image forming method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the inorganic fine particles are ~~applied with a sol-gel technique and are thereby~~ formed as spherical shaped hydrophobic silica fine particles using a sol-gel technique.

Claim 20 (Original): The image forming method as claim in claim 17, wherein the developer contains further inorganic fine particles having an average particle diameter which is smaller than the inorganic fine particles.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (New): The developer of claim 1, wherein the degree of roundness is calculated as a peripheral length of a circle having an area equal to an area of an image of an inorganic fine particle divided by a peripheral length of the image of the inorganic fine particle.

Claim 23 (New): The image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein the degree of roundness is calculated as a peripheral length of a circle having an area equal to an area of an image of an inorganic fine particle divided by a peripheral length of the image of the inorganic fine particle.

Claim 24 (New): The process cartridge of claim 12, wherein the degree of roundness is calculated as a peripheral length of a circle having an area equal to an area of an image of an inorganic fine particle divided by a peripheral length of the image of the inorganic fine particle.

Claim 25 (New): The image forming method of claim 17, wherein the degree of roundness is calculated as a peripheral length of a circle having an area equal to an area of an image of an inorganic fine particle divided by a peripheral length of the image of the inorganic fine particle.

Claim 26 (New): A developer, comprising:

a base toner containing at least a binding resin and a coloring agent; and

inorganic fine particles;

wherein the base toner satisfies $105 \leqq$ SF-1 $\leqq 130$, $120 \leqq$ SF-2 $\leqq 180$ and SF-1 < SF-2.

wherein SF-1 = ((absolute maximum length of a particle of the base toner)^2/area of the particle of the base toner)$\times(\pi/4)\times 100$,

wherein SF-2 = (peripheral length of the particle of the base toner)^2/(area of the base toner)$\times(1/4\pi)\times 100$,

wherein the inorganic fine particles have an average particle diameter that ranges between 30 nm to 160 nm.

Claim 27 (New): An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a developer for developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an electrostatic latent image carrier body to form a toner image;

a transfer unit for transferring the toner image to a transfer medium;

wherein the developer includes a combination and a carrier,

wherein the combination includes a base toner containing at least a binding resin and a coloring agent, and inorganic fine particles,

wherein the carrier has a magnetic particle,

wherein the base toner satisfies $105 \leqq$ SF-1 $\leqq 130$, $120 \leqq$ SF-2 $\leqq 180$ and SF-1 < SF-2,

wherein SF-1 = ((absolute maximum length of a particle of the base toner)^2/area of the particle of the base toner)$\times(\pi/4)\times 100$,

wherein SF-2 = (peripheral length of the particle of the base toner)^2/(area of the base toner)$\times(1/4\pi)\times 100$,

wherein the inorganic fine particles have an average particle diameter that ranges between 30 nm to 160 nm.

Claim 28 (New): A process cartridge, comprising:

a charge unit charging a photoconductor;

an exposure unit exposing light to the photoconductor to form an image on the photoconductor;

a developer;

a development unit developing the image formed on the photoconductor with the developer;

a transfer unit transferring the image formed on the photoconductor to a transfer medium;

a cleaning unit cleaning the transfer unit;

wherein the developer includes a combination and a carrier,

wherein the combination includes a base toner containing at least a binding resin and a coloring agent, and inorganic fine particles,

wherein the carrier has a magnetic particle,

wherein the base toner satisfies of $105 \leqq$ SF-1 $\leqq 130$, $120 \leqq$ SF-2 $\leqq 180$ and SF-1 < SF-2,

wherein SF-1 = ((absolute maximum length of a particle of the base toner)^2/area of the particle of the base toner)×(π/4)×100,

wherein SF-2 = (peripheral length of the particle of the base toner)^2/(area of the base toner)×(1/4π)×100,

wherein the inorganic fine particles have an average particle diameter that ranges between 30 nm to 160 nm.

Claim 29 (New): A image forming method, comprising the steps of:

charging a photoconductor;

exposing light to the photoconductor to form an image on the photoconductor;

developing the image formed on the photoconductor with a developer;

transferring the image formed on the photoconductor to a transfer medium;

wherein the developer includes a combination and a carrier,

wherein the combination includes a base toner containing at least a binding resin and a coloring agent, and inorganic fine particles,

wherein the carrier has a magnetic particle,

wherein the base toner satisfies 105 $\leqq$ SF-1 $\leqq$ 130, 120 $\leqq$ SF-2 $\leqq$ 180, and SF-1 < SF-2,

wherein SF-1 = ((absolute maximum length of a particle of the base toner)^2/area of the particle of the base toner) ×(π/4)×100),

wherein SF-2 = (peripheral length of the particle of the base toner)^2/(area of the base toner)×(1/4π)×100,

wherein the inorganic fine particles have an average particle diameter that ranges between 30 nm to 160 nm.